

AWC DL Mentor Program

Guidance and Reference Information

Our Mentor Program is a vital component of the AWC DL curriculum and is incorporated into our Joint Strategic Leadership (JSL). Mentoring is one of many leadership responsibilities and we see mentorship as a key role in the course.

BLUE: Our students need your direct assistance to complete their Personal Development Plan (PDP) as part of their JSL course requirements

The objectives of our Mentor Program are:

- *Assist with Joint Strategic Leadership PDP deliverable*
- *Assist with senior/strategic perspective on post-AWC graduation duties*
- *Serve as a guiding function and embellish the AF Mentor Program*

Students select a mentor when they are enrolled in JSL prior to starting course work. JSL is one of the four core courses in the AWC curriculum. The mentor should be the first O-6 or civilian equivalent in their chain of command preferably one whom has completed AWC DL or its equivalent. The primary responsibility of the student's mentor will be to review and provide constructive feedback on the two deliverables for the JSL course is the PDP. The PDP is a personalized plan drafted by the student with your assistance as well as an online personality trait survey that we highly recommend your mentee complete prior to writing the PDP. There is also an attachment with guidance (executive summary provided below). A secondary responsibility of the student's mentor is to help shape the perspective for the student as they near completion of the program. Professional Military Education, particularly distance learning, needs to be more than just an "expected" entry in someone's records. We need mentors to challenge students to use and apply the critical thinking skills they have developed. In some cases, we need you to "push" the student out of their comfort zone into a more strategic mindset. Our goal is to achieve a positive impact to the Air Force Mentoring program for potential leaders.

A successful mentoring program for our AWC distance learning students requires active involvement of senior leaders and particularly officers and civilians like you. This program should in no way be in conflict with or hinder the Air Force Mentor program. It should supplement and enhance ongoing mentor activities. There are several references attached to this document that may be useful in fulfilling your role as a mentor.

Our distance learning website (<http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/dl/index.htm>) contains links for the 17th Edition. It also contains links to our Student Guides and Course Flow Guide. Course material is only available through our AU Student Information System.

You will receive periodic emails from our student information system to include an initial welcome by the Commandant and JSL graded assignment feedback. If you have any questions, our staff is available to assist; awc.dl@us.af.mil.

Here is a listing of resources for our Mentor Program:

1. 17th Edition JSL Personal Development Plan Instructions, Jan 13

Executive Summary:

- 5 to 8 pages organized into three basic sections (self assessment & goals, professional development, reflection/critical thinking)
- Multiple goals (varied timeframe; both personal and professional)
- Section three is tied to JSL curriculum
- Mentor name and discussion date required with submission
- 50% of JSL grade
- Mentor receives the student's feedback

Full text link:

2. See PDP Guidance to the right under Mentor Information at the following link

[Air War College DL Mainpage](#)

3. Air Force Instruction 36-3401, 1 Jun 00, *Air Force Mentoring*

<http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/shared/media/epubs/AFI36-3401.pdf>